

REMARKS

The present filing is responsive to the Office Action.

Summary of the Response

Claims 1, 7, 8, 12, 13, 16 and 22-24 have been amended. Claims 11 and 21 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-10, 12-20 and 22-27 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application as amended are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 12 and 23 have been amended to correct the noted deficiencies.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 112

The affected claims have been amended to correct the noted deficiencies.

Concerning "said predetermined ideal gray scale voltage" recited in claim 19, antecedent is provided in intervening claim 16, from which claim 17 depends, and from which claim 19 in turn depends.¹

Concerning "said series of outputting data" recited in claim 19, antecedent is provided in intervening claim 17 from which claim 19 depends.²

¹ In paragraph 4 of the office action, the Examiner erroneously referred to lack of antecedent of a "second selecting means". Applicant presumes the Examiner is referring to lack of antecedent for the recited "said predetermined ideal gray scale voltage".

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-6, 14-8 and 25-27 are rejected as being anticipated by the IBM TDB disclosed in Applicant's IDS ("IBM TDB").³ This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The only independent claim 11 has been amended to essentially incorporate the limitations of claim 11 (or claim 21), reciting "said device comprises a second selecting means, coupled to the first selecting means, for selecting and outputting one or more gray scale voltages of said plurality of gray scale voltages of said selected gray scale voltage group according to the image data". The corresponding supporting disclosure appears in the written specification and FIG. 2, for example: The selector 62 receives the gray scale voltage groups G1-G32 input from corresponding inputting portions In1-In32 and selects one of the gray scale voltage groups G1-G32. The switch 63 is coupled to the selector 62 and switches whether the selector 62 should be connected to the video line 5. Further, the closing or opening of the switch 63 is controlled according to the image data. By closing and opening the switch 63, the switch 63 selects one of the gray scale voltages of the selected gray scale voltage group and then outputs it to the video line 5.

The Examiner acknowledged that the IBM TDB does not disclose a structure corresponding to the recited "second selecting means" (which was previously recited as "third selection means").

Nitta does not make up for the deficiencies of IBM TDB. Referring to FIG. 22 and column 12, lines 17+ in Nitta, the selection circuit 2204 selects one level from V1-V8 among the

² In paragraph 4 of the office action, the Examiner erroneously referred to lack of antecedent of a "second selecting means". Applicant presumes the Examiner is referring to lack of antecedent for the recited "said series of outputting data".

9-level reference voltages 115 (V0 to V8) to obtain the selected voltage 2206. Similarly, the selection circuit 2205 selects one level from V1-V7 to obtain the selected voltage 2207. Next, the voltage dividing circuit 2208 divides the difference between the two selected voltages 2206 and 2207 into eight to obtain 8 levels of gray scale voltages 2209 in between the two selected voltages 2206 and 2207. The selection circuit 2210 selects one level from the eight levels of gray scale voltages 2209 as a gray scale voltage 130. In this regard, the selection circuit 2210 selects one level from the eight levels of gray scale voltage levels 2209 and directly outputs it, without a further switch or other selection means. Thus, the voltage selection circuit in Nitta does not correspond to the recited "second selection means", which selects and outputs a gray scale voltage by further selecting from a selected gray scale voltage group by the recited first selection means. Nowhere in Nitta is there any disclose that its selection circuit 2210 outputs the selected level from the eight levels of gray scale voltage levels 2209 through a switch or other selection means.

Accordingly, even if IBM TDB is somehow combined with Nitta, such combination does not obtain the recited "second selection means". There is no teaching, suggestion, motivation or any apparent reason to combine the references in the first place to achieve the unexpected benefits and result of the present invention. Claim 1 and all claims pending therefrom are therefore patentable over IBM TDB and Nitta.

³ Throughout the office action, the Examiner referred to "Liu & Liu" as a prior art. Upon receipt of the office action, the undersigned contacted the Examiner to clarify this reference. The Examiner indicated that the correct reference should have been the IBM TDB.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 103

Claims 7-13 are rejected as being unpatentable over IBM TDB in view of Nitta (US 5,774,106). Claims 19 and 20 are rejected as being unpatentable over IBM TDB in view of Nishio (JP-08234697). Claim 24 is rejected as being unpatentable over IBM TDB in view of Nitta, and further in view of Okada (US 5,923,312).⁴ These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Given the traversal of the base claim 1, these rejections are rendered moot.

CONCLUSION

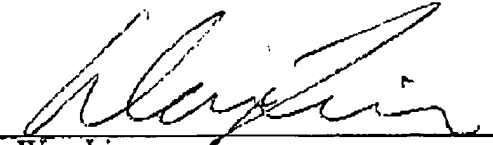
In view of all the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited. **The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.**

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this transmittal and associated documents, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501288 referencing the attorney docket number of this application.

⁴ In paragraph 38 of the office action, the Examiner referred to rejections of claims 7-13 and 21-23 as being unpatentable over the combination of IBM TDB, Nitta and Okada. This is apparently another error by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 6, 2009



Wen Liu
Registration No. 32,822

LIU & LIU
444 S. Flower Street; Suite 1750
Los Angeles, California 90071
Telephone: (213) 830-5743
Facsimile: (213) 830-5741
Email: wliu@liulaw.com